

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS

Dear Supporters and Friends of Orran,
We are happy once again to share with you our annual major and minor achievements at Orran. This year's principle undertaking was undoubtedly the purchase of a parcel of land to build an Orran center in the city of Vanadzor, where the number of beggar children is on the rise. The August Gala banquet was aimed at raising funds for this purpose. We were able to collect half the monies and rely on your help to raise the rest.

The expansion of the number of beneficiaries at Orran continues as we seek ways to embrace more and more children and families in need. Currently, we have 92 children who benefit from a hot meal a day, and the social, educational, medical, psychological and dental services provided on the premises. Every year, we enrich our program for the children. To the already existing classes of wood shop and arts and crafts, we added, this summer, a ceramics class. Here the children learn the skills of the craft and are encouraged by the money they make through the sale of their products.

Moreover, the crafts made by the children have found such a demand by the customers that the class has become self-financed. The children's quality of life is also enhanced by visiting historical and cultural centers and performances. Etchmiatzin, Zvartnots, Khorvirap, the City Zoo, the Botanical

Gardens, the Circus, and many concerts and theatrical shows were on the itinerary of the children.

Helping the 60 elderly a day is a very important part of our mission. Although initially the assistance was to be limited to a hot meal a day, Orran's Board of Directors made a decision to assign a social service worker to attend to the needs of the elderly. As you will read in the stories below, Orran is helping the elderly by providing food, clothing, housing and utility expenses as required, and other essential assistance.

Cooperation with other organizations proves to be advantageous for all. Orran opened its doors to "SOS children's villages'" beneficiaries. They were served and will continue to benefit free of charge from Orran's dental clinic. In turn, the Eye Care Project, founded by Dr. Roger Ohanessian, came to Orran to conduct eye examinations for the children and the elderly.

Of course, we could not help the needy of our homeland without you, our donors, whose generosity has ensured that even with high inflation and significant deflation of the dollar, we are able not only to meet the needs of our daily expenses but also improve our services. As you read on please bear in mind Mother Teresa's words which guide us:

"If you can't feed a hundred, feed a child a day."

OUR CHILDREN

Orran's gift to the children is their future.

Arman Harutyunyan was one-year old when his mother passed away. His father, Samson Harutyunyan, a graduate of the Pedagogical Institute, was forced to leave work to care for his son. In 2005, as Arman came of school age, he was embraced by the Orran family. With intensive social and psychological care, Arman has become an active and happy child. He is a good student at school. His favorite activity is pottery. He also enjoys acting during performances. Arman's father is thankful that he can go back to work, knowing full well that Arman is in loving hands.



Arman Harutyunyan

PRINCIPAL BENEFACTORS FOR THE YEAR 2007-2008

Platinum Donors (more than \$50,000 USD)

Krikorian Charitable Trust
Krikor and Anna Krikorian
VivaCell (K-Telecom CJSC)
Ralph Yirikian
Arev Petrosyan

Gold Donors (\$25,000 USD – \$50,000 USD)

Silver Donors (\$10,000 USD – \$24,999 USD)

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Bronze Donors (\$5,000 USD-\$9,999 USD)

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Armen Mazloumian
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Joseph Pennington and Amber Zaman

ORRAN'S MISSION

- Divert children from the streets and engage them in academic, cultural, and extra-curricular activities
- Fight the concept of beggar children as the principal breadwinners of their families
- Help families "in crisis"
- Assist the lonely and needy elderly
- Identify and develop children's interests and talents toward a working career
- Prevent the spread of destitution and begging among Armenia's children and elderly

HELP US BUILD AN ORRAN CENTER IN VANADZOR

Through the generous donations of our friends, we have currently raised \$403,800 or close to half of the total construction cost of \$868,000.

We desperately need more help to raise the balance so we can start construction in Spring 2009. This center will serve hundreds of needy children and elderly. Please make your tax deductible donations no matter how small via mail or via our website www.orrn.am

Orran Benevolent NGO Registered Charity No. 271.171.00931

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Advisor: Krikor Krikorian **Executive Director:** Heriknaz Harutyunyan **Founders:** Armine and Raffi K. Hovannisian



ORRAN'S FUTURE ECONOMIST



Marietta Kocharyan

Marietta Kocharyan is the first university student of Orran. As a senior at high school, Marietta very much wanted to go to university. The teachers and volunteers at Orran were with her at every step of the way. One of them tutored her in math, another in Armenian language, and another in English. Mrs. Manya, Orran's cook, would always make sure that Marietta was eating right and plenty. "You need the food so that your brain can work better," she would say. Imagine the celebration at Orran when Marietta was admitted into the university. However, her problems were not over since the tuition cost was high. Nevertheless, our Board of Directors member Emma Dewhirst was quick to respond. She approached her parents Mr. and Mrs. King who happily accepted to finance Marietta's education for the first year.

Orran is always cooperating with other organizations and responding to pleas by the media to help families in need. With the help of the American Armenian Chamber of Commerce, Orran has helped forty families in the last three years. Some have received monthly rent, others coal for heating, and still others food stipends. Orran has also assisted most of them with psychological, dental, and health problems. Orran is always ready to respond to such calls for help. Orran works closely with "168 Hours" newspaper Editor in Chief Satik Seyranyan and journalist Lusine Stepanyan. The newspaper periodically calls the public's attention to the dire situation of the families that need help. One of them is the Papazyan family. Thanks to AmCham, the family of seven children received monetary assistance for a whole year. Unfortunately, at the end of the year, their dismal situation had not improved. As Orran staff visited their home, they were appalled to find seven children living in a small two-room apartment, with no kitchen and no refrigerator. The one-year-old child had tea in her bottle since the family could not afford milk. Responding to Orran's request, Varoujan Bulgurjian of Kuwait



Edgar Papazian

FRUITS OF COOPERATION

extended his financial support for one year. But something fundamental had to be done with the family. Hence, it was decided to hire the Papazian father to work as a guard at Orran. Little Edgar, their seven-year-old son was old enough to take the bus to Orran. At first, he was aggressive and even refused the meals which were so different from the dry bread and the sugarless tea that he was used to. But like others, he learned to love Orran and his life has changed ever since. We are delighted to share the wonderful news of

GOOD NEWS



Mariam Khachaturova and Arthur Petrosyan

our first wedding with you. Mariam Khachaturova who came to Orran in the year 2005 became Mrs. Arthur Petrosyan as of November 6. The wedding took place at the Saint John Church among happy family members and friends at Orran. Mariam will continue her drama lessons sponsored by Orran at the State Theatrical Institute. We know that Mariam will return to Orran as a guest and continue to entertain the children with her diverse talent.

We wish Mariam and Arthur to enjoy a life of happiness and prosperity!

You can help many talented children like Marietta, Arman, Edgar and Mariam. Please visit our website to learn about our children that need your support now. Please donate online at www.orrn.am

HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED

We currently provide daily services to 92 children and 60 elderly. In addition, we assist 80 families on a part-time basis only because of limited funds. Unfortunately we can only meet the most urgent needs due to financial considerations.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Orran Finds Jobs for Five Families

One of the families assisted by Orran is that of Mrs. Anahit Movsisyan, a lonely mother with six children. Her husband left the family many years ago and lived in Russia. With the help of Orran, Mrs. Anahit was retained as an operating nurse at the Nork Republic Hospital. As a result, Mrs. Anahit no longer needs Orran and is grateful for helping her become financially independent. The story has another happy ending because Mrs. Anahit's husband returned from Russia and now this family is really happy.

At Orran we believe that our elders deserve to be treated with dignity

Orran provides hot meals to 60 needy and lonely elderly a day.

Since its establishment in the year 2000, Orran has helped more than 500 elderly. Orran is grateful to all of our donors and would like to extend a special thanks to Armenouhi Petrosyan of Yerevan. She is the first donor to respond to our call for a \$1.35 a day to sponsor an elderly. When she received the stories and photos of three of our elderly, Armenouhi Petrosyan couldn't choose which elderly to sponsor as all of them were in dire need and she decided to take care of all three of them: **Vergush Manukyan, Rudolf Stepanyan and Yelena Grikorova.**

Souren Grigorian was a homeless, hungry, and abandoned until a year ago. That is when he came to Orran. It was heartbreaking to hear him say: "What do I need this life for? No one has use for me. Let me just die and be done with it." "You changed my life. You have been so good to me, I will never forget that", he tells the staff and children of Orran. At last, Mr. Souren is happy. He has a hot meal every day, has made new friends, and has been able to socialize with people in similar circumstances.

OUR ELDERLY



Souren Grigoryan

Anoushavan Yeghiazaryan is the oldest beneficiary at Orran. He was born in 1914 and is today 94-years old. Grandpa Anoushavan, a veteran of World War II, has been attending Orran for the last four years and has not missed a day of celebration at Orran. It was with great enjoyment that he helped prepare the Mandela Peace Quilt with Rein Long, the famous American football player whose mother initiated the project upon her visit to Orran.

A few months ago, Grandpa Anoushavan fell ill. Everyone at Orran was concerned and was thinking of ways to help him. The kids made nice cards, the cooks at

Orran prepared special soups and other meals and the staff visited him to make sure he was doing fine. A comfortable bed was secured. Grandpa Anoushavan soon recovered and was back with his boyish smile. "Having grandchildren like you, who can die?" he said. "I know you made sure that I recovered so that we can celebrate my 100th birthday at Orran. Now I have a home and a family", jokes our happy Grandpa.



Mary Harutyunyan

Mary Hayrapetyan is a lonely pensioner who, because of family fraud, lost her apartment. She was living on the stairs of the "Star" supermarket on Amirian street. When Orran representatives first met Mrs. Hayrapetyan, she said, "I am not a bum, my girls I have lost my home." Orran rented a home for Mrs. Hayrapetyan.

It was impossible to watch her face without tears when she walked into her new home. The empty house would soon be filled with furniture, kitchen utensils, and other necessary goods, all gathered by the staff and families of Orran. Orran's beneficiary is no longer homeless.

She smiles as she says, "Orran soups are so delicious...you not only helped me with a home but you also gave me a family".



Anoushavan Yeghiazaryan and Rein Long

Please think of sponsoring an elderly at Orran. You can sponsor an elderly by donating just \$1.35 or more per day.

ORRAN HOLDS ITS THIRD ANNUAL BENEFIT BANQUET TO BUILD AN ORRAN CENTER IN VANADZOR



**Armine K. Hovannisian, Arev Petrosyan and
Mr. Ralph Yirikian with his spouse**

Orran's third annual benefit gala banquet convened on August 15 at the Marriott Armenia Hotel as part of Orran month at the Marriott. The fund raising event was organized to collect funds for the construction of an Orran center in Vanadzor.

Distinguished diplomats and international officials included Charles Lonsdale, Ambassador of the UK; Reena Pandey, Ambassador of India; US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Pennington and his wife Amberin Zaman; Bushra Halepote, representative of UNHCR; Consul Abdel Mohsen Shafey of the Egyptian Embassy; and Mr. Hovsep Seferian of the Brazilian Embassy with his wife Mrs. Knarik.

The Master and mistress of ceremonies were Nazareth Seferian and Madlene Minassian, old friends of Orran. After brief welcoming remarks by Board Advisor Susan Yacubian Klein and Orran acting Director Heriknaz Harutyunyan, Archbishop Sebouh Chuljian, Primate of

the Diocese of Gugark of the Armenian Apostolic Church explained the growing social hardships of this city and urged the guests to support the work of Orran. Armenia's Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Arsen Hambartzumyan underscored the need for government and NGOs to work together to eradicate poverty in Armenia.

Perhaps the most moving testimony was from the destitute and disadvantaged citizens of Vanadzor who travel to the capital every weekend in search of assistance. Heghine Teroyan holding the hand of her six-year-old son, pled: 'Please help us to have an Orran in Vanadzor so we do not have to travel to Yerevan every time to get help for our families.'

The first major donation announced came from Mr. and Mrs. Krikor and Anna Krikorian, of London, for \$250,000. Mr. Krikorian's story of his survivor grandmother who urged him to help Armenia if he ever became successful touched the guests

and struck a familiar chord with most of them.

Mr. Ralph Yirikian, General Manager of VivaCell urged entrepreneurs to support charity by giving back at least 1% of their annual profits. Mr. Yirikian's call for assistance was answered with generous donations from Mr. Vahagn Hovnanian, Dr. Garo Armen of New York, Mr. Petros Aslanian of Dubai and Mr. Hovig Kurkjian who had traveled from Saudi Arabia to be present at the annual gala.

An auction superbly hosted by Mr. Jonathan Stark, CEO of Cascade Bank, followed the evening's entertainment provided by the international gold medal-winning Avedis Choir and by reputable artists Mr. X, Arthur Ispirian and Irina Oulikhanova. Among the items auctioned by Mr. Stark were a gobelin work made by Krikor Kankanyan, a beneficiary of Orran, ski chalet accommodations in France, a carpet donated by the Megerian family, paintings by Mariam Marukhyan, a 14-year-old artist who had won in the annual UN

competitions, dinner for two compliments of Dolmama, a roundtrip ticket to Vienna compliments of Austrian Airlines, Yerevan accommodations for one week compliments of Briony Krikorian, and one night at the Tufenkian Heritage Hotels compliments of the management. After Ms. Zaman secured the carpet with a generous bid, she explained, "We have no children of our own and so we are happy to help children who are in need." Ralph Yirikian's philanthropic bid of \$70,000 for a painting created by artist Arev Petrosyan called "For You Only" was the highlight of the evening. This year's painting, measuring 150cm by 90cm, featured a clover collage symbolizing the Holy Trinity. Upon the purchase of the painting, the artist presented Mr. and Mrs. Yirikian with a certificate of ownership.

The celebration continued into the late hours with the music of Aftershock and its master DJs Hakop Barseghian and Mihran Krikorian.



**Mr. and Mrs. Krikorian handing a check
for \$250,000 to Armine K. Hovannisian**

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ORRAN BENEVOLENT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
 "HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED"

DECEMBER 2008

WHY WE CHOSE TO BUILD AN ORRAN CENTER IN VANADZOR



THE LOCATION OF ORRAN CENTER IN VANADZOR



Message from Armine K. Hovannisian

Vanadzor is the second largest city in Armenia and it is one of the three main cities that suffered during the devastating 1988 earthquake. The dismal situation of Vanadzor is evident by comparing the population figures of the years 2000 and 2003. Whereas in the year 2000, there were 171,000 people living in Vanadzor, in 2003 that figure had dropped down dramatically to 84,000. People leave because of the high unemployment rate, the poor living conditions and the low prospect of development. The children of Vanadzor from ages six to 18 who will be coming from economically deprived families will be the main beneficiaries of this project. Some of the children have resorted to begging to become the bread winners of their families. Some will

be forced to go on the streets if we do not help them today. Currently, numerous children in Vanadzor can not attend school because they don't have the basic necessities such as shoes. Needy and lonely elderly who have to live on a pension of \$30 a month where the minimum food basket is \$60.

When Mr. Krikorian and I visited the city of Vanadzor, the painful scene presented itself again. Not a moment's thought was required. An Orran center had to be built there as well. The Krikorians made a generous contribution of \$250,000 to start the project and we are looking for a matching sponsor for the same amount, with the building being named after these two major donors. Orran's annual

fundraising banquet in the month of August in Yerevan was geared towards raising further funds for the project. In an amazing show of generosity, \$153,800 was raised locally. This leaves a further \$214,200 to be raised to meet the target figure of \$868,000 for the new Orran center in Vanadzor.

Think about it, if all of our past donors contributed \$400 each, we could raise the funds within a week.

You can send in your tax deductible donation to Orran at 1451 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710, USA or make a donation by visiting our website to make an online donation at: www.orrان.am

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE ASSISTING ORRAN:

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE



Please send your US tax-deductible donation to Orran
 1451 Fifth Street, Berkeley
 CA 94710, USA

USD DONATIONS WORLDWIDE

Beneficiary Bank
HSBC BANK OF ARMENIA
 Yerevan, Armenia
 Swift Address: MIDLAM22
Operating USD A/C
 No: 001-119189-101
Construction USD A/C
 No: 001-119189-102



UK STERLING DONATIONS WORLDWIDE

Beneficiary Bank
HSBC BANK OF ARMENIA
 Yerevan, Armenia
 Swift Address: MIDLAM22
Operating AMD A/C
 No: 001-119189-001
Construction AMD A/C
 No: 001-119189-003



EURO DONATIONS WORLDWIDE

Beneficiary Bank
HSBC BANK ARMENIA
 Yerevan, Armenia
 Swift Address: MIDLAM22
Operating AMD A/C
 No: 001-119189-001
Construction AMD A/C
 No: 001-119189-003

We are grateful to Vahagn Vardanyan of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies, for his services in designing the paper.



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OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Arakelian family is a unique family whose service to humanity and compassion for the less fortunate is exemplary. Living in Fresno, the Arakelians learned of Orran from their friends when Orran first started in 2000. Since then, they have been sending a contribution of \$100 each month to Orran. Mr. Haig Barret Arakelian is an almond buyer for an almond processor in Central California.

Their company grows, packages and ships almonds throughout the world. Mrs. Caroline Arakelian is a care giver to her grandmother, mother and most of all, her husband and children. As Mr. Arakelian says, "Our greatest joy outside of our home is serving God in the Armenian Apostolic Church. We work with the youth and adults in the church's Christian Education and Sunday School departments. We love to spend time together as a family taking walks, riding bicycles and visiting Armenian families in our neighborhood". A few years ago, the Arakelians visited Orran with their daughters Alysse now 15 years old and Aline 12. Their visit reinforced their commitment to this home. "Orran is in our prayers every night. We are extremely grateful for the work and services that Orran provides to the children and elderly in Armenia. We love Orran and will continue to support her mission. God Bless you all and we look forward to visiting again soon", writes Mr. Haig Barret Arakelian in a letter to Orran.



Haig, Caroline, Alysse and Aline with their grandmother Dorothy Mazman of Fresno, California

Lilya Vasilyan is a musician by profession. She has been volunteering at Orran for the last two years. Upon her arrival, she initiated a discourse between the students on topics such as friendship, love, humility, fashion, music, and many others that were of interest to the children.

Lilit Alaverdyan is a graduate of Yerevan's Haybousak College, where she majored in International Relations. Since the year 2006, she has been volunteering at Orran. She is always very patient, has a great attitude, and greets



Lilya Vasilyan at the piano with the children



Children of Orran in the embraces of Ms. Lilit

The children enjoy these sessions very much since it gives them a forum to formulate and crystallizes their thoughts and ideas. Mrs. Lilia also organizes trips to museums and established an Orran choir which sings the songs of Komitas, Babajanyan, Ajemyan, and other loved composers. The choir shows off its talents when there are guests at Orran. During her free time, Mrs. Lilia works with Hripsime and Andranik Malkhasyan and Hripsime Mekhakyants to prepare them for the university admission exam.

people with the biggest smile. She mostly helps the younger group of children with their homework. In talking to a group of kids and asking them to say what they like about Ms. Lilit, these answers came up: "You can ask her as many questions as you like." "We are happy that she comes to all of our field trips." "We like it best when she runs around with us and plays with us. She is a bad football player but a lot of fun".